| Sl. No. | Name of the State | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15. | Orissa | 36 | 152 | 157 |
| 16. | Punjab | 20 | 131 | 147 |
| 17. | Pondicherry | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 24 | 79 | 82 |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 122 | 535 | 667 |
| 20. | Uttaranchal | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| 21. | Uttar Pradesh | 59 | 193 | 228 |
| 22. | West Bengal | 36 | 131 | 226 |
| | TOTAL: | 1204 | 5657 | 6652 |

**Telephone network in rural areas**

†1178. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had entrusted the work of setting up of telephone networks in rural areas to private and governmental institutions;

(b) if so, the number of villages where the work of setting up of telephone is entrusted to private and governmental institutions separately; and

(c) the number of villages where telephone facility had been set up by December, 2001, in both the sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The details of voluntarily made commitments by these private companies for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) *vis-a-vis* their achievements are enclosed as Statement. (*See* below) In addition, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (earlier Department of Telecom Services/Department of Telecom Operations) has also been continuing with provision of Village Public Telephones throughout the country. So far 4,15,835 number of villages as on 31.12.2001 out of 6,07,491 number of villages in the country have been provided with VPT.

## Statement

*Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by Private Licensees*

| Sl. No. | Licensees and Licensed Circle | Effective Date of License | Committee targets* for VPTs in first three years (as per obligations under Licence Agreement) | | | Total No. of committed VPTs in 1st 3 years | No. of VPTs actually provided@ (31.12.01) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | I Year | II Year | III Year | | |
| 1. | M/s Tata Teleservices (Andhra Pradesh) | 30.9.1997 | 9635 (by 30.9.1998) | (All Villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998) | | 9635 | 15 |
| 2. | M/s Reliance Telecom (Gujarat) | 30.9.1997 | 8635 (by 30.9.1998) | (All Villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998) | | 8635 | Nil |
| 3. | M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. (Punjab) | 30.9.1997 | 5442 (by 30.9.1998) | (All Villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998) | | 5442 | 1 |
| 4. | M/s Hughes Tele. Com. (India) Limited (Maharashtra) | 30.9.1997 | 4000 (by 30.9.1998) | 21760 (by 30.9.99) | No. village was to be left uncovered by 30.9.99) | 25760 | 102 |
| 5. | M/s. Bharti Telenet (Madhya Pradesh) | 30.9.1997 | 5500 (by 30.9.1998) | 5500 (by 30.9.1999) | 5500 (by 30.9.2000) | 15600 | 348 |
| 6. | M/s Shyam Telelink (Rajasthan) | 04.3.1998 | 7439 (by 4.3.1999) | 10629 (by 4.3.2000) | 13766 (by 4.3.2001) | 31834 [36727]** | 209 |
| | | TOTAL | 40651 | 37889 | 19266 | 97806 | 675 |

* Translated into absolute terms based on bid/tender documents keeping in view the committed targetrs for direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and the figure for number of uncovered villages indicated in the tender.

** The total number of uncoverd villages in Rajasthan Service area in only 321834 as against the licensee's commitment of 36727.

@As reported by the licensees.